

**To:** Herckis, Arian[Herckis.Arian@epa.gov]; Cobbs, Chris[Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov]; Bluhm, Kate[Bluhm.Kate@epa.gov]  
**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 4:44:53 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: R9 Gold King Mine Response - 8/12/15 Update

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Zito, Kelly" <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 9:41:08 AM PDT  
**To:** "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Blumenfeld, Jared" <BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV>, "Manzanilla, Enrique" <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>, "Harris-Bishop, Rusty" <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>, "Tenley, Clancy" <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov>, "Yogi, David" <Yogi.David@epa.gov>, "Kao, Jessica" <Kao.Jessica@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>, "Smith, Paula" <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>, "StClair, Christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>, "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>, "Higuchi, Dean" <Higuchi.Dean@epa.gov>, "Keener, Bill" <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** R9 Gold King Mine Response - 8/12/15 Update

Hi all - Please see the latest on R9 activities, updated with new info this morning.  
Let me know what else is needed.  
Kelly

Key Info:

- Currently R9 has 23 staff/contractors on site, with that number likely increasing to closer to 30 later this week.
- R9 continues to have daily communications with Navajo Nation representatives to coordinate on water sampling, community outreach and other response efforts.
- R9 Administrator Blumenfeld is traveling to the area this week with the Administrator.
- R9 is conducting water sampling along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites.
- R9 is working to set up a Region 9-lead public meeting with Navajo Nation citizens.  
Date: TBA
- Working with Region 6, a toll-free number has been established for citizens requesting sampling for their water well, or if they need water for livestock or agricultural irrigation. EPA will be doing the sampling. The number is 844-607-9700.
- EPA (R9) is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas impacted by the discharge. The wells for the NTUA - Montezuma Creek public water system were shut

down as a precaution prior to the contaminant plume reaching the area. NTUA will be providing hauled water from the NTUA – Aneth public water system to the Montezuma Creek service area. The Montezuma Creek system is a groundwater system, but some of the wells are 100 feet from the river, so the wells were closed as a precaution.

More detailed info below:

### **EPA Region 9 activities for Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

EPA continues its work in the Navajo nation in response to the Gold King Mine water release, coordinating with Navajo EPA and other stakeholders as part of the broader, three-region response. David Nez from Navajo Department of Emergency Management was designated today as the liaison to the Navajo Nation for our Farmington Incident Command Post (ICP).

Working with Region 6, a toll-free number has been established for citizens requesting sampling for their water well, or if they need water for livestock or agricultural irrigation. EPA will be doing the sampling. The number is 844-607-9700. The number is live now, and has the choice for English or Spanish with a live speaker, or leaving a message for a Navajo speaker to return their call. A live response in Navajo should be available by Thursday this week.

EPA continued sampling at 11 surface water locations on the San Juan River in Navajo (New Mexico and Utah). These sampling location are the same as those that Navajo EPA Water Quality has been sampling, so there is available historical data to compare to once we receive our results. Navajo EPA Water Quality representative Steve Austin observed our sampling efforts, and will begin taking samples tomorrow in the same locations. We have a 48-hour turnaround time for the sampling data and then will validate and evaluate the results. We are expecting results from one sample taken Friday pre-incident and four samples taken Saturday that were most likely mid-event. We are looking into additional labs that might be able to reduce the turnaround time for sampling.

### **Plans for Wednesday, August 12, 2015**

Sediment sampling will resume on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. One pre-event sediment sample was obtained at Hogback, and sediment samples were collected at the 11 surface water sampling locations on Monday, August 11.

On Thursday, August 13, 2015, EPA will use boats to collect samples in the middle of the San Juan River (the previous sediment samples have all been taken near shore). This effort will help EPA assess the impact of the mine release on the San Juan River.

